

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his acknowledgement that claims 4 and 5 contain allowable subject matter. After entry of this amendment claims 1, 5, 8, 9, and 15 will be pending in this application. Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 10-14, and 16-37 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowed claim 4 and the intervening dependent claims 2 and 33, which have been consequently cancelled. Claim 5 has been amended to change its dependency to claim 1.

The foregoing amendments are taken in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicant would otherwise be entitled in view of the prior art.

By amending the application, the Applicant does not concede that the patent coverage available to them would not extend as far as the original claim. Rather, Applicant reserves the right to file a continuation application to pursue the breadth of the claims as filed. Applicant believes that the Examiner has not made a sufficient showing of inherency of the teachings of the asserted prior art, especially given the lack of teachings in the cited references of the properties that Applicant has recited in his claims.

Further, by the present amendment, it does not follow that the amended claims have become so perfect in their description that no one could devise an equivalent. After amendment, as before, limitations in the ability to describe the present invention in language in the patent claims naturally prevent the Applicant from capturing every nuance of the invention or describing with complete precision the range of its novelty or every possible equivalent. See, Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 62 USPQ2d 1705 (2002). Accordingly, the foregoing amendments are made specifically in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicant would otherwise be entitled.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner declined to examine claims 6, 7, 10-14, 16-23 and 34-37. These claims have been cancelled. Applicant requests that these objections be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

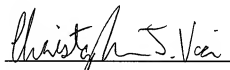
The Examiner rejected claims 1, 8, 9, 15 and 33 as obvious over various combinations of references. These objections are moot in view of the amendment to claim 1 incorporating the subject matter of allowable claim 4 and the intervening claims. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of Applicant's amendments and remarks, the Examiner's rejections are believed to be rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience. Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (319) 594-2200.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1097 for any fee which may be due.

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Christopher J. Voci
Registration No. 45,184
Dobrusin & Thennisch PC
29 W. Lawrence Street, Suite 210
Pontiac, MI 48342
(319) 594-2200
cvoci@patentco.com
Customer No. 25,215